

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
Committee on Equal Opportunities  
October 13, 2009**

**Institutional Programs for African American Males**

At its June 16, 2009, meeting, members of the Council's Committee on Equal Opportunities began a dialogue regarding the reaction of Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions to the challenges confronted by African American males. As a result of the conversation, the committee asked institutional representatives to provide information regarding programs implemented by their institutions to increase the representation and success of African American males on their campus and in their service region.

Nationwide, the under-representation of African American males in the postsecondary education system has received a great deal of attention. Much of the available research discusses the immediate implications of the limited number of African American males in the postsecondary education system, as well as the long-term economic, political, and social consequences that society will confront if solutions are not offered to address their persistence and graduation in postsecondary education. The following information is provided in response to the committee's request.

- There were 4,413 Kentucky resident African American males enrolled at the public postsecondary institutions in fall 2008. That number totaled 5,515 in 2007.
- In fall 2008, 2,745 or 49.8 percent (2,745 of 5,515) of the fall 2007 African American males were retained at their institution of origin.
- In fall 2008, an additional 228 or 4.1 percent of the 5,515 African American males were retained at other Kentucky institutions.
- The six-year graduation rate for Kentucky resident first-time degree seeking African American males (fall 2002 cohort) was 23.0 percent (120 of 521).

Institutional reports respond to the following questions raised by the committee.

- Have special programs/initiatives been implemented that address the underrepresentation of African American males at the public institutions?
- Are there activities/strategies that assist in the retention of African American males?
- Have efforts been made to support the assessment/enhancement of the campus climate for African American males?
- Are there internships/career planning/placement initiatives for African American males that enhance their retention, "work-readiness," and leadership skills upon graduation?

A summary of the reports are presented as Attachment A. Institutional EEO representatives will be available to provide additional information or respond to questions by CEO members.

Staff preparation by Rana Johnson